

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in this application.

**Listing of Claims:**

1-37. (Cancelled).

38. (New) A ceramic seat shell for protecting an occupant, comprising:  
a curved portion that transitions a substantially vertical orientation of a backrest portion  
of the ceramic seat shell into a substantially horizontal orientation of a seat portion of the  
ceramic seat shell, wherein the curved portion having at least one side portion, the side portion  
extending forward and including at least one curved surface, wherein the side portion and the  
curved portion are formed of a monolithic piece of ceramic material.

39. (New) The ceramic seat shell of claim 38, further comprising at least one of:  
a backrest portion having the substantially vertical orientation, wherein the backrest  
portion and the curved portion are joined together; and  
a seat portion having the substantially horizontal orientation, wherein the seat portion and  
the curved portion are joined together.

40. (New) The ceramic seat shell of claim 39, wherein the curved portion and the  
backrest portion are formed of a monolithic piece of ceramic material.

41. (New) The ceramic seat shell of claim 39, wherein the curved portion and the seat portion are formed of a monolithic piece of ceramic material.

42. (New) The ceramic seat shell of claim 39, wherein the curved portion, the backrest portion, and the seat portion are formed of a monolithic piece of ceramic material.

43. (New) The ceramic seat shell of claim 39, wherein at least one of the backrest portion and the seat portion comprises a side portion extending forward and including at least one curved surface, wherein the side portion and the at least one of the backrest portion and the seat portion are formed of a monolithic piece of ceramic material.

44. (New) The ceramic seat shell of claim 38, further comprising a forward interior surface, wherein the forward interior surface is configured to mate with a rearward surface of a composite bucket.

45. (New) The ceramic seat shell of claim 39, wherein the backrest portion and the curved portion share at least one continuous surface.

46. (New) The ceramic seat shell of claim 39, wherein the seat portion and the curved portion share at least one continuous surface.

47. (New) The ceramic seat shell of claim 38, further comprising at least one cut-out.

48. (New) The ceramic seat shell of claim 47, wherein the cut-out is pre-formed in the ceramic seat shell.

49. (New) The ceramic seat shell of claim 38, wherein at least one portion of the ceramic seat shell includes at least one groove.

50. (New) The ceramic seat shell of claim 49, wherein the at least one groove defines at least one enclosed area.

51. (New) A ceramic seat shell for protecting an occupant, comprising:  
a backrest portion having a substantially vertical orientation;  
a seat portion having a substantially horizontal orientation; and  
a curved portion located in between the backrest portion and the seat portion, wherein the curved portion transitions the substantially vertical orientation to the substantially horizontal orientation, wherein the curved portion having at least one side portion, the side portion extending forward and including at least one curved surface, wherein the side portion and the curved portion are formed of a monolithic piece of ceramic material,  
wherein at least two of the backrest portion, the curved portion, and the seat portion are formed of a monolithic piece of ceramic material.

52. (New) The ceramic seat shell of claim 51, wherein at least one of the backrest portion, the curved portion, and the seat portion includes at least one side portion, the at least one side portion including at least one curved surface, wherein the at least one side portion and the at

least one of the backrest portion, the curved portion, and the seat portion are formed of a monolithic piece of ceramic material.

53. (New) A ceramic seat shell for protecting an occupant, comprising:  
a backrest portion having a substantially vertical orientation;  
a seat portion having a substantially horizontal orientation; and  
a curved portion located in between the backrest portion and the seat portion, wherein the curved portion transitions the substantially vertical orientation to the substantially horizontal orientation,

wherein each of the backrest portion, the curved portion, and the seat portion includes at least one side portion that extends forward, the at least one side portion including at least one curved surface, wherein the at least one side portion, the backrest portion, the curved portion, and the seat portion are formed of a monolithic piece of ceramic material.

54. (New) An armor device for protecting an occupant in a bucket seat, comprising:  
a composite bucket having a rearward surface; and  
a ceramic seat shell having a forward interior surface, the forward interior surface is configured to mate with the rearward surface of the composite bucket, the ceramic seat shell comprising a curved portion that transitions a substantially vertical orientation of a backrest portion of the ceramic seat shell into a substantially horizontal orientation of a seat portion of the ceramic seat shell, wherein the curved portion having at least one side portion, the side portion

extending forward and including at least one curved surface, wherein the side portion and the curved portion are formed of a monolithic piece of ceramic material.

55. (New) The armor device of claim 54, wherein the ceramic seat shell further comprising at least one of:

a backrest portion having the substantially vertical orientation, wherein the backrest portion and the curved portion are joined together; and  
a seat portion having the substantially horizontal orientation, wherein the seat portion and the curved portion are joined together.

56. (New) The armor device of claim 55, wherein the curved portion and the backrest portion are formed of a monolithic piece of ceramic material.

57. (New) The armor device of claim 55, wherein the curved portion and the seat portion are formed of a monolithic piece of ceramic material.

58. (New) The armor device of claim 55, wherein the curved portion, the backrest portion, and the seat portion are formed of a monolithic piece of ceramic material.

59. (New) The armor device of claim 54, wherein the composite bucket is constructed as layers of material laid upon the forward interior surface of the ceramic seat shell.

60. (New) An armor system for protecting an occupant in a bucket seat, comprising:  
a composite bucket having a rearward surface; and

a ceramic seat shell having a forward interior surface, the forward interior surface is configured to mate with the rearward surface of the composite bucket, the ceramic seat shell comprising:

a backrest portion having a substantially vertical orientation;

a seat portion having a substantially horizontal orientation; and

a curved portion located in between the backrest portion and the seat portion, wherein the curved portion transitions the substantially vertical orientation to the substantially horizontal orientation, wherein the curved portion having at least one side portion, the side portion extending forward and including at least one curved surface, wherein the side portion and the curved portion are formed of a monolithic piece of ceramic material,

wherein at least two of the backrest portion, the curved portion, and the seat portion are formed of a monolithic piece of ceramic material.

61. (New) The system of claim 60, wherein at least one of the backrest portion, the curved portion, and the seat portion includes at least one side portion, the at least one side portion including at least one curved surface, wherein the at least one side portion and the at least one of the backrest portion, the curved portion, and the seat portion are formed of a monolithic piece of ceramic material.

62. (New) The system of claim 60, wherein the composite bucket is constructed as layers of material laid upon the forward interior surface of the ceramic seat shell.

63. (New) The system of claim 60, wherein at least one portion of the ceramic seat shell includes at least one groove.

64. (New) The system of claim 63, wherein the at least one groove defines at least one enclosed area.

65. (New) The system of claim 60, wherein the ceramic seat shell includes at least one cut-out.

66. (New) The system of claim 65, wherein the at least one cut-out is pre-formed in the ceramic seat shell.

67. (New) The system of claim 65, wherein the composite bucket is configured to receive at least one mechanical connector at the at least one cut-out.